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The fact that in this book Mr. Olds does not display either the knowledge, method, or inclination to get at facts in a discriminating way, does not argue that there is no need for a study of the costs of strikes. Certainly, there is in strikes a large element of waste; some of it inevitable, some of it controllable. Full knowledge of the facts (and these facts will only be secured through minute studies of particular strikes) may impress the worker, the employer, and the community with the necessity of reducing the number of strikes.

But let us not delude ourselves. Should all parties admit the loss from strikes, still the fact remains that, damaging though the strike is both to the direct participants and to the public, it is the chief weapon which labor feels it can depend upon to work out its future. To place their lot in the hands of the employers or even of the public and to accept in docile spirit what is given them, is an impossible concept from the workers' point of view. And control must be in terms of what is possible.

WILLARD E. ATKINS

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*The New World: Problems in Political Geography.* By ISAIAH BOWMAN, PH.D. Illustrated with 215 maps and with 65 engravings from photographs. Yonkers-on-Hudson, N.Y.: World Book Co. 1921. \$6.00.

The future will have to decide whether the United States played the rôle of Parsifal, the pure fool, in the world-war or rather that of Don Quixote fighting valiantly in a world of self-created illusions. What is certain at this present moment is that the country is passing through a violent reaction, and that after performing heroic rescue work for the benefit of the maiden Europa, it has ungallantly and capriciously left her in the lurch. From this emotional disgust the author of the present book tries to wean his wayward countrymen by the psychologically admirable device of substitution. He serves up the post-war world as it is and, quietly ignoring the romantic past and the evil taste it has left behind, he appeals to the intelligence of his readers in the calculation that if they can be induced to bring, instead of their hearts, their minds to bear upon the situation of the contemporary world they will take a fresh and invigorating hold on it.

Dr. Bowman has turned out a notable work. He propounds the proposition that the post-war world may no longer be conceived

other than as a single unit, though the elements composing it may be more numerous than the waves of the sea. According to him every individual now alive who wishes to live up to his most obvious obligation must regard the struggles of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America as his struggles and must be willing to take upon his shoulders a small part of the burdens which this participation entails. In some thirty-four chapters Dr. Bowman completes the journey round the earth, pausing at every crucial point to enumerate the elements which through their blind or conscious interaction have produced a crisis. These elements are of the most varied character—social, historical, economic, and geographical—and pile up a mass of data enabling the reader to envisage in succinct form every leading problem now agitating a given people or region.

Apart from occasional evidence of a lingering war psychosis—how slowly even an honest scientist disengages himself from a poisoned state of mind!—the method of this book is laudably objective. An occasional sentimentality, chiefly about our vaunted democracy, also sounds a false note in the scientific ensemble of the work, though not enough to hurt. In the main the author has assembled facts, cool and commonplace facts, firmly implying, however, that his facts concern the living spirit and at all times call for human sympathy and fellowship. An invaluable feature of the work are the abundant illustrations. These are of two kinds: engravings from photographs presenting characteristic aspects of desert and mountain scenery, of inland and harbor towns, of widely scattered village types, and sketch maps in black and white showing the new political boundaries, the distribution of races, physical relief, rainfall, and a score of other interesting matters. In sum, here is a book which, so far as the knowledge of the present reviewer goes, is unique in American literature, and which all students of present-day problems holding the belief that geography, politics, ethnology, and economics constitute a common groundwork of co-ordinated knowledge are likely to find absolutely indispensable.

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*The Development of Economics, 1750-1900.* By O. FRED BOUCKE.  
New York: Macmillan, 1921. Pp. vi+348.

One looking at the title and then at the size of the volume is likely to be lost in wonder as to how such a very large genie is going